

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SKRCSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8283

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2398

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FOR AMBASSADOR - DESIGNATE KRYZA AND AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH

E.O. 11652: UJVDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, EAID / .4, US
SUBJECT: AID/W NIBBLING AWAY AT ANALYTICAL STUDIES PROJECT

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 2389, (B) STATE 213895, (C) NOUAKCHOTT 2343

1. AID/W'S FAILURE TO FULFILL ON PROMISE OF FIRST INCREMENT FUNDING FOR IN-DEPTH ANALYTICAL STUDIES OF RURAL AND MANPOWER SECTORS (RAMS) FROM FY 1977 MONEY, AND ITS SUBSEQUENT TWENTY PERCENT (APPROXIMATELY) REDUCTION OF PROJECT DOLLAR TOTAL (REF DDL IS CONCERN OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS TO BOB KLEIN AND TO ME. AT RISK IS VIABILITY OF CAREFULLY DEVISED USG DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE STRATEGY FOR MAURITANIA AND CREDIBILITY OF USG AND OF OFFICERS OF THIS MISSION IN DEVELOPMENT FIELD. KLEIN HAS ELOQUENTLY AND COGENTLY SET OUT HIS VIGOROUS OBJECTIONS TO AID/W DECISION IN REF A TOGETHER WITH PLEA FOR INCREASE RATHER THAN DECREASE OF PROJECT BUDGET TO COVER ELEMENT INSERTED BY AID/W BUT NOT BUDGETTED FOR IN ORIGINAL PROJECT FIGURES. KLEIN'S RECLAMA WAS INTENTIONALLY SENT KELIN TO EVANS IN AIDAC SERIES TO REMOVE ANY TAINT OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TO KEEP ARGUMENTATION IN PRISTINE PURE DEVELOPMENT TERMS FOR AID/W READERSHIP.

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2. HOWEVER, PROPOSED REDUCTION OF ANALYTICAL STUDIES BUDGET IS DECISION WITH INTENSELY POLITICAL MCT FOR THIS REASON DEPARTMENT MUST BE DIRECTLY AND FULLY INVOLVED IN AID/W CONSIDERATION OF CDO'S BUDGET CUT RECLAMA. I URGE AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE AND AF/W DIRECTOR TO WADE INTO THIS PENNY WISE/ POUND FOOLISH ACTION SOONEST. AS MISSION REPORTED REF C AND

CDO LAID OUT IN DETAIL IN REF A, MINISTERS OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING HAVE ALREADY SEIZED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF STUDIES PROJECT, AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCED ITS FAVORABLE EXAMINATION OF PRWNCT IN MEETING MINUTES WHICH WERE PUBLISHED OCTOBER 10 IN CHAAB.

3. THURSDAY EVENING MINSTATE PLANNING SIDI 'ABDALLAHI SPENT TEN MINUTES IN MIDDLE OF IBRD EVALUATION TEAM DINNER TELLING GOVERNOR CENTRAL BANK AND ME (1) HOW PLEASED HE HAD BEEN WITH HIS ENCOUNTER WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND HOW IMPRESSED HE HAD BEEN WITH MOOSE'S GRASP OF DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS AND AID DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF MAURITURIA, (2) HOW THOROUGHLY CERTAIN HE IS THAT AID/M IS ON EXACTLY RIGHT ROAD IN ITS APPROACH TO AND STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN MAURITANIA, AND (3) HOW DELIGHTED HE IS WITH ANDIMPRESSED BY KLEIN'S INTELLECTUAL ACUITY, COMPETENCE, AND GRASP OF MAURITANIAN REALITIES. VALUE OF SIDI'S ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT AND OF BOB KLEIN SIMPLY CANNOT BE UNDER-ESTIMATED. IN SHORT-TERM, SIDI IS ABLE PLANNING SPECIALIST, EFFECTIVE EXECUTIVE, AND MEMBER OF "DIRECTORIRE" WHICH CHARTS COURSE FOR AND RUNS MAURITANIA. BARRING APPLE CART UPSET SIDI IN MID OR LONG TERM WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY WIELD STILL MORE CLOUT, AND COULD EVEN EVENTUALLY GET THETOP JOB. WHATEVER HAPPENS (AGAIN BARRING OVERTHROW OF REGIME), SIDI WILL BE A PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER WITHPOSITION ANDPOWER WHICH FLOWS THEREFROM. IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT USG SHOULD RISK HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT AT THIS BEGINNING STAGE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT AND OF OUR EVOLVING AND IMPROVING BROADER POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GIRM. IN HIS RECLAMA, KLEIN POINTED TO NEARLY 14 MONTHS OF DISCUSSIONS HE, HIS STAFF, AND I HAVE HAD WITH GIRM OFFICIALS FROM DIVISION CHIEF TO PRESIDENT, AND NOTED ADVERSE IMPACT WHICH CUTBACK WILL HAVE ON THIS GROUP OF 50 OR MORE KEY MEMBERS OF MAURITNIAN POWER STRUCTURE. HE DIPLOMATICALLY DID NOT MENTION REPEATED INDICATIONS OF APPROVAL AND ASSURANCES OF FUNDING HE AND I HAVE REPEATEDLY RECEIVED DURING CONSULTATIONS ON STUDIES PROJECT WITH SHEAR, NORTH, SCOTT, PARKER, AND MORE RECENTLYGILLIGAN, ON BASIS OF WHICH WE HAVE CONVEYED VERY STRONG ASSURANCES OF ACTION TO OUR GIRM INTERLOCUTORS.

5. BUT OF CONSIDERABLY GREATER SIGNIFICANCCE, ANY ATTEMPT AT

THIS LATE STAGE TO REDUCE SCOPE, A ZMN OPERATIONAL CONCEPT (I.E. TEAM SIZE OR RESIDENCE PRERIOD) OR EVEN ANY FOOT-DRAGGING ON FINAL APPROVAL OF STUDIES PROJECT AT BEST POSTPONES STARTING DATE OF AND AT WORST UNDERCUTS THIS MISSION'S LONG RANGE POLITICAL STRATEGY (LAID OUT IN MY MAY TELEGRAM AND ELABORATED FURTHER DURING AUGUST WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS WITH STATE AND AID

OFFICERS); TO ATTEMPT TO PREVENT AN EVOLUTION IN MAURITANIA AND IN NORTH WEST CORNER OF AFRICA WHICH U.S. WOULD FIND MOST DISTASTEFUL BY ACTING TO HELP GIRM ARTICULATE ANEW ITS LONG RANGE MODERNIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND HELP IT CREATE A SENSE OF MOVEMENT TOWARD THOSE OBJECTIVES (WHILE FRANCE AND MOROCCO REINFORCE GIRM'S ABILITY TO PROTECT ITSELF MILITARILY FROM "PROGRESSIVE", "SOCIALIST" FORCES WHICH WOULD LIKE TO SEE CURRENT "MODERATE", TRADITIONALIST REGIME DISPLACED -- AND IN SOME INSTANCES ARE ACTIVELY WORKING TO THAT END). TO EXTENT THAT AID/W NAY-SAYERS ARE PERMITTED TO EXERCISE THEIR POUND FOOLISH BUDGET SCAPLES, USG'S FIGHTING CHANCE TO STAVE OFF DISTASTEFUL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN MAURITANIA IS PROPORTIONATELY DIMINISHED. IF FOR PERSUASIVE GLOBAL REASONS WE ARE UNWILLING TO HELP MAURITANIANS ACQUIRE TOOLS THEY NEED TO
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PROTECT THEMSELVES, AND IF FOR REASONS OF CANDLE END ECONOMY WE WILL NOTHELP THEM MOUNT AN EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, HAVE WE THEN DECIDED TO FORM UP IN A CIRCLE AND WRING OUR HANDS? I DONT FOR A MINUTE BELIEVE IT. BUT THAT MAY BE WHERE WE INADVERTENTLY COME OUT UNLESS AF STEPS IN TO RESTORE RATIONALITY TO THE AID/W DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

6. DEGREE OF CANDOR MANIFSTED IN THIS TELEGRAM MOVES ME TO UNDERSCORE STADIS CAPTION AND TOMAKE EXPLICIT MISSION REQUEST THAT SPECIAL CARE BE TAKEN TO INSURE TEXT DOES NOT RPT NOT GO ASTRAY. USE ORALLY TO FULLEST. BUT PLEASE NO QUOTES AND NO COPIES.

HANDYSIDE

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